

File State

June 9, 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR FILES

This morning I noted in the papers a report that an American helicopter was down in East Germany. Some difficulty was being incurred in our attempts to get the people back because of Soviet insistence that we deal with East Germany, and our insistence that we wanted to deal with the Soviets because we do not recognize East Germany.

Having forgotten the incident until about 12 noon, I called the Secretary of State on the telephone to remind him that under somewhat similar circumstances we had dealt directly with Red China, which we do not recognize. When I had the Secretary on the phone, he remarked that my call was a remarkable coincidence because he was just reaching for the phone to call his staff to remind them of the same circumstance and to express his opinion that we should not be too stiff-necked in our attitude. To do so might easily create a situation that could bring about a prolonged stalemate such as we have had in China.

